

Appl. No. 09/090,648
Amdt. Dated 04/14/2004
Reply to Office Action of 01/16/2004

REMARKS

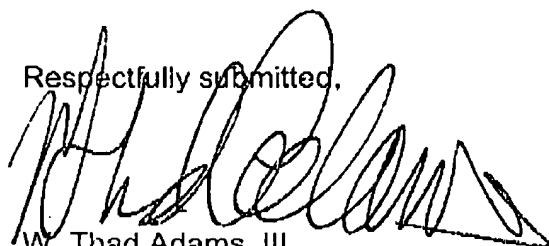
The Examiner has rejected claims 1 through 6 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 through 17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,550,861.

In order to place the application in condition for allowance, a Terminal Disclaimer is being submitted with this Response to overcome the double patenting rejection. Thus, the Examiner's double patenting rejection of claims 1 through 6 should be withdrawn.

In submitting the Terminal Disclaimer, Applicant is not acknowledging the validity of the Examiner's Office Action, and is thus submitting the Terminal Disclaimer without prejudice to the filing of continuing applications directed to the same subject matter.

For all the reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that all of the claims in the case are now in condition for allowance. Such action is therefore respectfully requested at an early date. If the Examiner believes that any issues remain for discussion, he is invited to contact the undersigned.

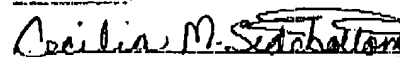
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on 04/14/2004.

 4/14/04
Cecilia M. Sidebottom Date of Signature